

to break the partisan logjam and help the tens of millions of older Americans across this country who face rising prescription drug costs.

**Statement on the Japan-United States Agreement on Interconnection Rates**

*July 18, 2000*

This important agreement on interconnection rates will help further reduce regulatory barriers to trade between the United States and Japan. It will level the playing field for America's cutting edge technologies and increase the number of Japanese consumers connected to the Internet. It's a win-win for the United States and Japan and represents an important step as we prepare to discuss the impact of information technology on the global economy at the G-7/G-8 summit.

**Statement on the Death of Senator Paul Coverdell**

*July 18, 2000*

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Senator Paul Coverdell.

Paul Coverdell spent a lifetime serving the people of Georgia and our country. He was a tireless advocate who worked to ensure that children have access to quality education. And he was a leader in America's war against drugs. As Director of the Peace Corps, he proudly carried America's spirit of volunteerism around the world.

I join all Americans in honoring Paul Coverdell for his years of service as a soldier, a public servant, and a statesman. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy, his family, and his many friends.

**Remarks on Departure for Okinawa, Japan, and an Exchange With Reporters in Thurmont, Maryland**

*July 20, 2000*

**Middle East Peace Summit**

**The President.** As all of you know, for the past 9 days we have been engaged in the

most comprehensive and thorough negotiations ever between Palestinians and Israelis on the core issues of their 52-year conflict. The two parties have been making an intensive effort to resolve their differences over the most difficult issues. The gaps remain substantial, but there has been progress, and we must all be prepared to go the extra mile.

After a round of intensive consultations this evening, the parties agreed to stay at Camp David while I travel to Okinawa for the G-8 summit. Mr. Lockhart will be able to fill you in on the details of how this occurred. I have to take the plane, and I'm running late, but I do want him to explain what happened.

During the time I am gone, Secretary Albright will be working with the parties, and we'll continue to try to close the gaps. Upon my return, I will assess the status of the talks.

There should be no illusion about the difficult task ahead, but there should be no limit to the effort we're prepared to make. These are in fundamental ways the hardest peace issues I have ever dealt with, but the short answer to why we're still here after everybody thought we were through is that nobody wanted to give up. After all these years, as hard as these issues are, they don't want to give up. And I didn't think we should give up, and so we're still plugging away.

But you should draw no inference from this. I will observe the news blackout on the details and will continue to do it, but this is really, really hard.

Thank you very much.

**Q.** Mr. President, could you say one thing about your personal involvement here, what you have invested here personally over the past 9 days, and what it was that led you to conclude that this phase of the summit is not going to pan out as you had hoped?

**The President.** Well, I don't know that it won't now. I think anything I would say about that would in some way or another violate the prohibitions we have had. I have respected that rigorously. I have asked the other members of the parties to do so. And I just think any characterization or description beyond what I told you—we all thought it was over, at least now that—and then we

discovered that nobody wanted to quit. Nobody wanted to give up. And that should be encouraging.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 a.m. at Thurmont Elementary School.

### **Statement on the Tokyo Group of Eight Meeting**

*July 20, 2000*

At today's unprecedented meeting in Tokyo, G-8 leaders met with leaders from developing nations and representatives from the private sector and international development institutions. While I regret that I was unable to participate, I look forward to hearing from Secretary Summers and my G-8 colleagues about the discussion and working to ensure that everyone benefits from the global economy.

Building on last year's Cologne debt initiative, the Okinawa summit will create a framework to fight infectious disease, increase access to basic education, and expand opportunity through information technology. Despite a stronger global economy, too many people around the world live every day without essential health care, basic literacy, or the opportunity to share in the benefits of modern technology. I am committed to continuing to work closely with America's partners in the G-8 and the developing world to address these issues, reduce poverty, fight infectious disease, and increase opportunity for all.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia Budget Request**

*July 20, 2000*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2001 Budget reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For FY 2001, the District estimates revenue of \$5.718 billion and total expenditures of \$5.714 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of \$4.128 million.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 20, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

### **Remarks at National Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan**

*July 21, 2000*

First, let me thank the Governor and the other distinguished officials from Okinawa; the family members of those whose names are on this memorial; the distinguished veterans; ladies and gentlemen. I think I should begin by saying that in as much as we are here to talk about the future as well as the past, I think we should give another round of applause to Machika. She did a fine job and was a great credit to the students of this island. *[Applause]*

I am very honored to be the first American President to visit Okinawa in 40 years. This week our partners from the G-8 will come here to speak many words about the future. I wanted to come first to this place that speaks so powerfully in silence about the past, to remember those who lost their lives here, to honor what must have been their last wish, that no future generation ever be forced to share their experience or repeat their sacrifice.

The battle of Okinawa itself lasted more than 80 days. More than 100,000 Japanese soldiers died—or almost 100,000. More than 10,000 American soldiers. But the heaviest tragedy by far fell on the people of Okinawa themselves: One-third of the civilian population lost; 90 percent of those who survived